



42nd Infantry Division - Operation Iraqi Freedom 3 News

DISPATCH

Volume 32

October 2, 2005

Task Force Liberty Soldiers support Iraqi referendum preparations



Iraqi army officers and an enlisted soldier examine a map as part of an referendum vote security rehearsal at the Iraqi army's K1 Training Center September 21

Story and photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert,
116th BCT

TIKRIT, Iraq— Iraqi security and Task Force Liberty leaders met Sept. 21 at the Iraqi army's K1 training and headquarters facility near Kirkuk to rehearse security plans for the October 15 constitutional referendum election. Organizations represented at the security plan rehearsal included the Iraqi army leaders of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, Iraqi Police Services, Independent Electoral Commission—Iraq (IECI), Iraqi emergency services and Soldiers of the 116th Brigade Combat Team.

The rehearsal included a military-style “rock drill” where each participant was allowed to rehearse the plan using a large graphical representation of the area laid out on an auditorium floor.

“We are helping them set up their rock drill map,” said Sgt. Maj. Ken Ahlm, operations sergeant for the 116th BCT. “This will be a rehearsal for upcoming referendum security plan.”

Ahlm and several other 116th BCT operations and staff Soldiers assisted the Iraqis in setting up the floor map depicting the region.

Ensuring that the upcoming referendum vote is not interrupted by violence is a top priority for both the Iraqi and Task Force Liberty forces. This exercise offered an opportunity for key leaders to synchronize their efforts to ensure seamless security.

Helping prepare the Iraqi security forces to take full responsibility for the security of the region is part of the Task Force Liberty mission in North Central Iraq. The unit's mission also includes assisting Iraq's new government, supporting economic development and facilitating communications.

Turkmen conduct peaceful demonstration at Kirkuk Government Building



Approximately 40 to 50 Turkmen gathered Sept. 25 outside the Kirkuk Government Building to peacefully demonstrate for resolution of Saddam-era land issues affecting Taza, Iraq. Taza is located in southern Kirkuk Province. (Photo by Task Force 2-116 Armor)

Story by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 16th BCT

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Iraq—When a patrol from 116th Brigade

Combat Team's Task Force 2-116 Armor went to investigate reports of 40 to 50 Turkmen gathered outside the Kirkuk Government Building Sept. 25, they were

pleasantly surprised to find a group of peaceful Iraqis exercising appropriate freedom of expression and engaging Iraqi leaders with their issues.

According to the investigating patrol, the event organized by a group of Turkmen from Taza, Iraq, was very well organized and included security and coordination with government leaders.

"Upon arrival, the patrol found 40-50 Turkoman males holding signs," read the TF 2-116 Armor patrol report. "Qoria Police were on site with three patrol cars providing security in the area."

The demonstrators had gathered to bring some land issues in their area to the attention of the provincial leadership.

"The Qoria police informed the patrol that it was a Turkoman group seeking to regain control of lands near Taza that had been turned over to Arabs during the Saddam era," continued the report. "The leaders of the group were inside the government building meeting with the city council and the Governor. The demonstration appeared to be very peaceful, no chanting."

The city of Taza is located in southern Kirkuk Province.

Task Force Liberty hosts forum in Kirkuk

Story and photo by Capt. Monte Hibbert, 116th BCT

TIKRIT, Iraq - Religious leaders of different faiths came together for a forum held in Kirkuk, in mid-Sept. with one thing in common, to learn about and discuss the upcoming constitutional referendum and parliamentary elections. The diverse group ended the show by condemning terrorist acts of violence committed by terrorists.

More than twenty clerics from the Muslim and Christian communities in Kirkuk attended the "Making Your Voice Heard" forum at the Kirkuk Government Building. The discussion forum is an outgrowth of an interfaith session held earlier in the summer.

The Kirkuk Business Center facilitated the forum discussion and Task Force Liberty's 116th

Brigade Combat Team Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Worster helped sponsor the gathering. The Kirkuk religious leaders heard from an Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) representative, on IECI functions and the overall importance of the upcoming referendum vote and elections. The group also discussed how to best communicate to the residents of Kirkuk using print and electronic media with Iraqi media representatives.

One of the Islamic leaders attending, Sheikh Ali Khalid, emphasized the importance of seeking resolution without violence during the question and answer period, saying that, "God does not allow murder, and those who hide behind Islam to commit these terrorist acts taking place in Iraq today are false believers, bringing discredit to the Muslim faith."



Sheikh Ali Khalid condemns terrorism as an act against faith at the "Making your voice heard" forum in Kirkuk. Over twenty religious leaders, both Muslim and Christian, discussed issues such as terrorism and the upcoming referendum and elections in Iraq at the multi-religious forum Sept. 19, 2005.